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OAS ACTION AGAINST COMMUNISM IN GUATEMALA

Meeting May 29, 1954

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Mr. Holland called a meeting in his office at which the following were present with him:

Ambassador Dreier, AR
Mr. Atwood, OSA
Mr. Burrows, MID
Mr. Leddy, MID
Mr. Fisher, MID

A. It was determined to draft a telegram this morning to all ARA diplomatic missions outlining our determination to call or support a call for an OAS meeting to deal with Communist penetration in Guatemala and arms shipments to that country. A meeting will not be called unless at least fourteen votes are assured. The telegram should inform the missions that a statement on Soviet penetration in Guatemala is being airmailed. The telegram should give the arguments contained in Mr. Holland's memorandum to the Secretary of May 14, emphasizing:

(1) There is no quarrel with the Guatemalan people;

(2) This action is a feature of the worldwide combat against international Communism;

(3) There is no desire to impose any sanctions stronger than necessary to eliminate Communist penetration in Guatemala;

(4) This matter is completely divorced from the United Fruit Company matter U.S. policy on problems of this nature are well known and will be followed in accordance with established procedures. Our concern over the Communist problem would be exactly the same if there were no United Fruit Company question at all. The Guatemalan argument is intended to divert the public attention from the Communist issue under the mask of the United Fruit Company.

(5) The Guatemalans are conducting an international campaign against the United States in an effort to prevent an OAS meeting. Missions should counteract this effort energetically.

(6) Brazil fully supports the U.S. position and has asked to take the lead in approaching Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, and Chile.

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Our missions there should be instructed to hold up until the Department or the local Brazilian mission chief has given notice that the initial overture has been made. Missions should then move in energetically. Bernbaum in Caracas should be instructed to await arrival of Ambassador Warren. Ambassador Gardner at Habana should await arrival of Ambassador Pawley who can arrive by the middle of next week.

B. The following specific tasks were outlined:

(1) Preparation of the case for the OAS and related documents, speeches, etc. Ambassador Dreier in charge, with Mr. Jamison and Miss Whiteman. Messrs. Leddy, Hill and Fisher responsible for supplying informational data. A cable should be sent to Ambassador Peurifoy notifying him that Mr. Hill would be retained in Washington for the urgent job of assisting in preparation of the case and Mr. Lowell Richardson would be sent to Guatemala to relieve Mr. Wardlaw who could assume Mr. Hill's duties.

(2) Coordination of publicity. Mr. Holland was to consult with Mr. Bill Clark of USIA concerning the use of Mr. Ralph Hilton. It was mentioned that Mr. MacKnight on Mr. McCardle's staff has followed the Guatemalan situation and worked with the CIA and USIA. Mr. Atwood suggested consulting Mr. Woodward concerning the OCB function.

(3) Separation of the United Fruit Company from the Communist issue. The Brazilians want a strong statement. Consideration should be given to having the Secretary make such a statement in an early press conference. ~~Mr. Leddy is to call the United Fruit Company and inquire if the company will follow up such a statement with a declaration of its willingness to accept international arbitration or adjudication of its claim against Guatemala.~~

(4) Reference to control of travel of international Communist agents to be replaced in the draft resolution and Ambassador Muniz advised.

ARA:MIL:JWFisher:mcm